

New records of *Achatina fulica* Bowdich from the Côte d'Ivoire

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Three new localities of the giant African snail *Achatina fulica* Bowdich in the Côte d'Ivoire are recorded, additional to the one reported earlier (De Winter, 1988), which was the first West African record of this species. As the known localities are far apart, the species has now probably become a permanent member of the West African fauna.

Key words: Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Achatinidae, *Achatina fulica*, distribution, West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire.

During a collecting trip in West Africa in Januari 1989 I collected *Achatina fulica* Bowdich, 1822, at three localities in the Côte d'Ivoire (fig. 1). Recently the first West African specimens of this species were reported from the same country (De Winter, 1988). In this paper I already expressed my concern that it might become a permanent member of the fauna of this region. This fear has thus now become true. The first record was from a garden not far from Abidjan. Two of the new records are from sites far removed from permanent human settlement, although all were under the influence of man. The paucity of the material should not be taken as an indication that the species is rare. Actually, very few other achatinids were found, due to the dry season, despite intensive collecting.

It remains to be seen whether the species will become an agricultural pest, as in many other areas. Another interesting question is, whether it will colonize the natural forests, which are inhabited by several endemic achatinid species, and where thus competition may be more severe than in areas outside Africa colonized by this species.

REFERENCE

WINTER, A. J. DE, 1988. *Achatina fulica* in West Africa. — Basteria 52: 2.

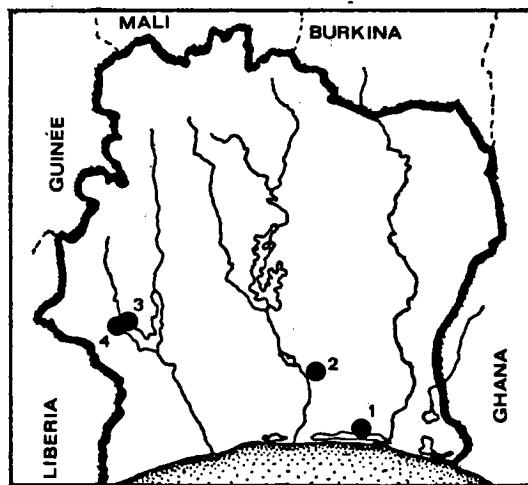


Fig. 1. Map of the Côte d'Ivoire, showing the approximate collection sites of *Achatina fulica*. 1, Garden of ORSTOM institute at Adièpo-Doumé near Abidjan (De Winter, 1988). 2, Coffee plantation in burned forest near Nzi-Noua, 16 km N. of Tiassalé, 1 fresh shell. 3, Secondary vegetation about 5 km ENE. of Guiglo, along road to Duékoué, 1 fresh shell. 4, Guiglo, in garden under logs, several aestivating animals and empty shells.